



## **Legislative Initiative to Curb Waste, Fraud, Abuse, and Increase Transparency at DHS**

As part of a legislative initiative to curb waste, fraud, abuse and increase transparency at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the freshmen Republican members of the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security introduced the following bills:

### **H.R. 1615, the “DHS FOIA Efficiency Act of 2015,” introduced by U.S. Rep. Buddy Cater, R-Ga., on March 25, 2015:**

- This bill directs the Chief FOIA Officer of the Department of Homeland Security to make certain improvements in the implementation of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Freedom of Information Act) to include
  - Finalizing, updating, and issuing FOIA regulations for DHS;
  - Identifying annual cost to the department of implementing FOIA;
  - Providing guidance to the department and components on reporting standards related to the costs of processing FOIA requests;
  - Identifying and eliminating unnecessary duplication in the course of processing FOIA requests;
  - Developing a plan for electronic FOIA tracking; and
  - Minimizing the FOIA backlog.
- Reporting requirements shall be included in the already mandated Semiannual Privacy Report.

### **H.R. 1626, the “DHS IT Duplication Reduction Act of 2015,” introduced by U.S. Rep. Will Hurd, R-Texas, on March 25, 2015:**

- This bill requires the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Department of Homeland Security to reduce duplicative information technology (IT) systems within DHS. DHS CIO must:
  - Identify all IT systems at the department;
  - Assess the number of potentially duplicative systems; and
  - Develop a strategy to reduce such duplication, including an assessment of potential cost savings or cost avoidance.
- Upon completion of the report, the DHS CIO must submit this strategy to:
  - The House Committee on Homeland Security; and
  - The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

### **H.R. 1633, the “DHS Paid Administrative Leave Accountability Act of 2015,” introduced by U.S. Rep. Barry Loudermilk, R-Ga., on March 25, 2015:**

- This bill provides for certain improvements relating to the tracking and reporting of employees of the Department of Homeland Security placed on administrative leave for personnel matters, to include:
  - Internal tracking and reporting to the Chief Human Capital Officer (CHCO) of the department on the number of employees on administrative leave for 6 months or longer; and
  - Costs per component associated with administrative leave.
- This bill directs the CHCO of the department to:
  - Monitor the number of employees on administrative leave;
  - Determine any appropriate actions to be taken to resolve any personnel matter; and
  - Develop and implement a department-wide policy regarding administrative leave.
- This bill directs the CHCO to report to Congress:
  - The number of employees on administrative leave for personnel matters for a period of 6 months or more; and
  - Associated costs, per quarter for the next three years.

**H.R. 1634, the “*Border Security Technology Accountability Act of 2015*,” introduced by U.S. Rep. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., on March 25, 2015:**

- This bill requires that Department of Homeland Security border security technology programs to:
  - Implement an Acquisition Program Baseline before moving to the next phase of the acquisition lifecycle;
  - Adhere to internal control standards identified by the Comptroller General of the United States; and
  - Develop a plan for testing and evaluation, as well as use independent verification and validation resources for border security technology.

**H.R. 1637, the “*Federally Funded Research and Development Sunshine Act of 2015*,” introduced by U.S. Rep. John Ratcliffe, R-Texas:**

- This bill requires the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to annually submit to the Congress a list of the ongoing and completed projects that Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC) within DHS have been tasked to complete.
  - To improve Congressional oversight the report must include size and scope of DHS FFRDC projects

**H.R. 1640, the “*Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Consolidation Accountability Act of 2015*” introduced by U.S. Rep. Mark Walker, R-N.C., on March 25, 2015:**

- This bill directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to Congress a report on the Department of Homeland Security headquarters consolidation project in the National Capital Region, to include:
  - Current list of components/offices to be included in project;
  - Current plan for construction of the consolidation project;
  - Estimates for costs and schedule for the project; and
  - Estimated cost savings of re-scoping the project.
- This bill will require the Comptroller General of the United States to review the updated cost and schedule estimates to evaluate quality and reliability.

**H.R. 719, the “*TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015*,” introduced by U.S. Rep. John Katko, R-N.Y., on February 4, 2015 and passed by the House on February 10, 2015:**

- This bill requires TSA Criminal Investigators to spend at least 50 percent of their time investigating, apprehending, or detaining individuals suspected of committing a crime.
- Currently, TSA does not necessitate that its Criminal Investigators meet this requirement, despite being considered law enforcement officers and receiving premium pay.